

er, praise, teaching and administering the ordinances. It was not for entertainment, but for edifying and spreading the gospel. There were no secular trustees, nor unconverted paid singers, nor worldly entertainments nor titled officials.

2. It was for work. Eph. 4:11-16; both in building up the members in the faith and in winning others.

3. It was a training school. Acts 4:13; I Cor 14:26; Acts 18:26. Workers grew in the faith and were sent out as missionaries.

4. It was a home. Gal. 3:28. All were one in it and naturally concerned for each other.

HELPFUL QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION.

1. What are some common mistakes in worship?

2. If one can pray best in private why have public worship? Heb. 12:25; Matt. 18:19, 20, etc.

3. Should we in praying always repeat the Lord's prayer? Give Scripture authority.

4. Why are informal meetings best?

5. If Christ should come to our church what would he think of our house, of our clothes, of our organ and choir, of our collections, of our behavior, of our prayers and testimonies and sermons, of our interest in missions?

6. How can we help make our worship more spiritual?

To the Leader. To study all these scriptures and discuss the questions may be too much for one hour. Be well prepared. Cut off useless discussions. Have songs and everything ready in case of pauses.

You have material for a good meeting. Pray for it.

CHRISTIAN YOUNG PEOPLE TRAVELING.

Christian young people sometimes seem to forget that their deportment on the trains, in street cars, and at boarding places, should as truly harmonize with their Christian profession as in the church or convention hall. The editor of the Epworth Herald had his attention called to this matter recently, when he saw returning from a convention a number of young people whose conduct was very rude and unbecoming. He says:

"Who were these young persons? They were professedly the disciples of Jesus Christ. They were returning from a meeting to which they had gone to plan and pray for the upbuilding of God's kingdom. Seasons of heart searching and consecration had no doubt been passed through. The obligation of each young Christian to go out into the world and strive to lift up the standard of the cross had no doubt been enforced. Personal responsibility had been emphasized again and again. Was it not natural that we should expect that the members of such a convention would come away with increased thoughtfulness and subdued manner—more like the gentle and courteous Master whose disciples they professed to be? But their silly conversation and boisterous manner brought great reproach upon the organization they represented, and upon the Lord."

These are timely and wise words, and the Herald enforces them in the following emphatic way:

"The convention season is at hand. Many young people will be traveling to and fro. Be careful. The eye of the world will be upon you. The eye of the enemy of your Master will be upon you. Your conduct will speak for or against your Lord. What you say has much influence. What you do has more. The Christian boy is always a gentleman. The Christian girl is always a gentlewoman."

—*Religious Telescope.*

A SUGGESTION TO ENDEAVORERS.

An old Scotchman, with a beautiful humility, thus spoke to his minister: "I'm nane o' the speaking sort, but 'll tell ye this, there's never a Saturday night but my gude wife an' me has oor bit 'o prayer thegither that the dear Lord will bless oor pastor an' take him safely through the morrow." The knowledge that the "bit o' prayer" was being offered for him was seemingly a little thing, but it gave the minister fresh inspiration and renewed courage for his daily task, and made his heart glow with a more tender love for these simple people who were thus pleading for him and his work before the throne of God.

The members of some of our societies have adopted the beautiful custom of bowing their heads in a brief prayer for their pastor as he gives out his text. They carry the sweet thought into their own meetings and thus pray not only for the leader but also for each one who rises to speak. The human heart makes no mistake when it cultivates that which broadens its sympathies and enables it to enter into the longings and aspirations of others. There are few things more cheering than the knowledge that prayers are being offered for us as we strive to do God's will. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another."—*Forward.*

A WISE DECISION.

The celebrated Rev. Dr. Beecher (father of Henry Ward) being once asked why he did not reply to a man who had been telling lies about him in the newspapers, answered that when he was a young man, crossing a field with an armful of books one evening, he came across a small animal and hurled several volumes at him, but got the worst of it; since which time he had thought it better to let all such animals alone.

The world is like a looking glass. Laugh at it and it laughs back; frown at it and it frowns back.

Home Circle.

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY DAY.

"Take a little dash of cold water,
A little leaven of prayer,
A little bit of sunshine gold
Dissolved in morning air,

"Add to your meal some merriment,
Add thought for kith and kin,
And then, as a prime ingredient,
A plenty of work throw in.

"Flavor it all with essence of love
And a little dash of play;
Let a nice old book, and a glance above,
Complete the well-spent day."

—*Selected.*

DAVY'S BATTLES.

Davy was studying history, and as he read of the great generals and the battles that they fought, he longed to be a man, and do some great thing himself. "O, dear!" he said. "A fellow has to wait so long, and learn a lot before he can begin."

"You are mistaken, Davy," said his sister, Ella; "there is a battle for boys and girls, as well as for men and women."

"Our Sunday-school teacher told us that," said Davy.

"You must fight with yourself, Davy, when you don't want to obey mamma, and when you feel angry. Make yourself obey. I wish that you'd try."

"I believe that I will, sis," said Davy.

"I give you a verse that will help, Davy," said Ella; "He that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city."—*Exchange.*

HOW JAMIE LOST THE PRIZE.

This true incident from an English school-teacher's lips shows how a boy can be both high-minded and unselfish for the sake of another.

Jamie Pettigrew and Willie Hunter were the clever boys in Mr. Howatt's school class, and used to "run neck and neck for the prizes." Examination day came again. Jamie and Willie were left last in the field. Jamie missed question after question, while Willie answered and got the prize.

"I," says Mr. Howatt, "went home with Jamie that night, and instead of being cast down at losing the prize he seemed rather to be mighty glad. I couldn't understand it.

"'Why, Jamie,' I said, 'you could have answered some of those questions. I know you could.'

"'Of course I could!' he said with a laugh.

"'Then why didn't you?' I asked.

"He wouldn't answer for awhile; but I kept pressing and pressing him, till at last he turned round with such a strange, kind look in his bonnie brown eyes.